

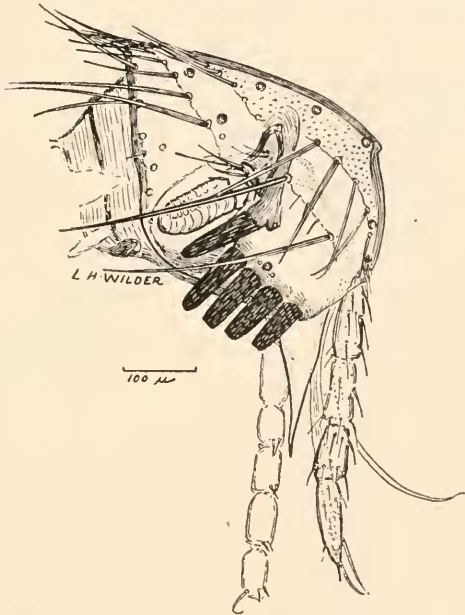
A New Flea, *Ctenophthalmus Heiseri* spec. nov.
(Siphonaptera).

By GEORGE W. MCCOY,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Public Health and Marine
Hospital Service, San Francisco, California.

Ctenophthalmus heiseri sp. n.

Female. Head.—Occiput is very gently rounded, and forms with the front of the head a distinct angle at which the occiput slightly overlaps the anterior margin. A row of five large bristles is found extending from just in front of and below the upper extremity of the antennal groove to the insertion of the maxillary palpi. Two



or three bristles are found about one-third of the distance from the posterior margin of the occiput; the upper near the midline, the lower further forward and about midway to the upper end of the antennal groove. Posterior to these is a row of about five bristles extending slightly forward; the lower being about midway between the upper extremity of the antennal groove, and the posterior border of the occiput. The posterior inferior curved margin

of the gena carries a row of five stout spines. The origin of the upper one is apparently overlapped by a chitinous projection. The three succeeding ones are of about the same length. The lowest one is somewhat shorter than the others. Near the middle of the front margin of the gena is a very large bristle. The antennal groove is about five-sixths of the depth of the head, and is not connected with the opposite antennal groove by a furrow extending across the head. Labial palpus extends beyond three-fourths the length of the an-



terior coxa. The maxillary palpus is about as long as the first four joints of the labial palpus. The first joint of the maxillary palpus is longer than any of the succeeding joints. The eye is wanting.

Thorax.—Pronotum carries a row of about ten bristles just posterior to the middle, and on the posterior margin a row of twenty stout spines. The mesonotum bears two rows of very fine hairs near the anterior margin; back of these there is a row of stouter hairs, and still further back a row of about twelve heavy bristles. The metanotum is similarly clothed except that the two rows of

fine hairs are wanting. The epimerum and the episternum of the mesonotum are joined by a strongly marked suture. The epimerum bears one hair, the episternum none. The episternum of the metanotum carries one hair near the posterior superior angle, and a very large bristle just below this.

Abdominal segments.—The first tergite bears from before backwards an irregular row of hairs, a row of about 12 long bristles, a row of shorter bristles, and six stout pegs or teeth between which are long bristles. The second tergite carries about eight teeth between which are small hairs, and behind these a row of bristles. The third carries an anterior irregular row of hairs, then a row of bristles and behind these a row of six teeth. The fourth has bristles like the third, and four stout teeth. The fifth has similar hairs and bristles, and two stout teeth near the midline. The sixth has about six long hairs on each side. The seventh carries two antipygidial bristles on each side. The second, third and fourth tergites have two bristles below the stigma; the fifth and sixth have one. The sternites each carry a row of long bristles.

Modified segments.—The eighth tergite is quite hairy. The style is cylindrical and carries a long hair at the point.

Legs.—The hind coxae have several irregular rows of short, stout bristles on the inner side below and toward the anterior margin. Hind femur has three or four hairs on inner side. The last hind tarsal joint has six spines on either margin, the last being a little shorter than the preceding ones. Between the two distal spines are two rather small spines.

Relative lengths of hind tarsal joints, 22, 14, 8, 5, 9.

Relative lengths of middle tarsal joints, 11, 8, 6, 4, 10.

Length—2.4 mm.

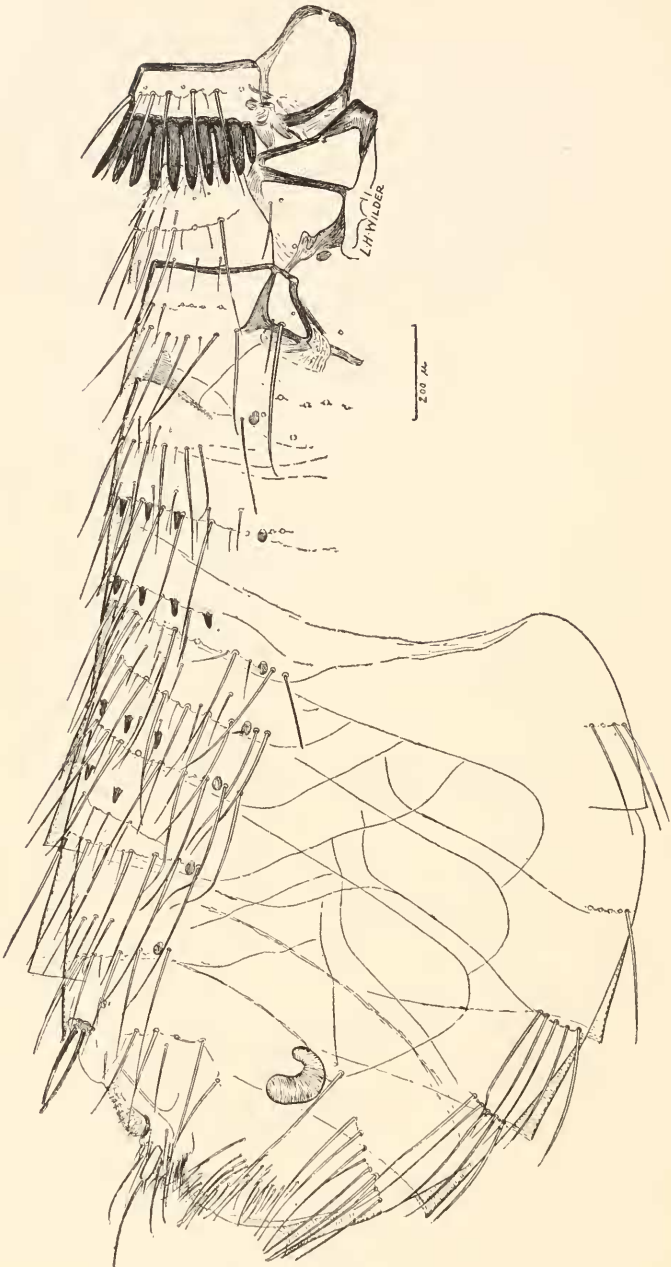
Color, dark brown.

Type specimen in the collection at the U. S. National Museum, Catalogue No. 14,154. Host unknown. Locality, Mojave, California.

The specimen was sent to the Honorable N. Charles Rothschild, who kindly examined it and pronounced it a new species of *Ctenophthalmus*.

Judged by the description of *C. fraternus*, Baker (1), the flea described here stands nearer to it than to any other American species.

1. Proceedings of the United States National Museum, Vol. 27, 1904, page 423.



Clenophthalmus heiseri sp. n., page 445.